

# IN THE BEGINNING



Published Quarterly By  
Woodson County Historical Society  
Yates Center, Kansas

Vol. 7 - No. 25

## IN THE BEGINNING

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January - 1974

*Lester A. Harding - Editor*

### Editor's Notes —

As we have done in the past few years we are going to remind our readers that their subscription has expired by placing a red box with a red mark in it immediately following the Editor's Notes above. The subscriptions of most of our regular subscribers need renewing with this issue.

The subscription price of In The Beginning will remain the same for the coming year. In fact we have no intention of raising it any more, but with the increase in postage going into effect about the first of the year, we would appreciate any postage our out of the county subscribers would care to send along.

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By the time this is in print we will have volumes 5 and 6, 1972-1973, bound into hard-rock books. As far as we know at present the price will be the same, \$8.00 each. We still have some of the first two books available.

\* \* \* \* \*

The cover picture is the old native stone bank building that stood as a landmark on the southwest corner of the square for around 86 years. The old landmark was torn down during the past year to make way for a new modern bank. At least four different banks occupied this building during its duration.

The story of the different Yates Center and Woodson County banks will start in the next issue of this quarterly.

\* \* \* \* \*

In this issue are the stories and some of the family history of the families of; Henry Trueblood, Col. Wm. L. Parsons, Lewis Klick and Pusey Graves. Also articles about the First Baptist Church, Yates Center, Mt. Pleasant School No. 31, Owl Creek Vigilantes, "Old Jerky," Santa Fe Railroad to Yates Center, and the Kansas Clarus Mineral Spring near Batesville.

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And to our many readers scattered over the United States we certainly wish for them a happy and prosperous 1974.

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IN THE BEGINNING

Published Quarterly By

Woodson County Historical Society

\$2.50 per year

Yates Center, Kansas

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WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Organized March, 1965

Mrs. Clarissa Cantrell has been named to represent the Woodson County Historical Society on the Yates Center Centennial Committee. This Centennial will be held in 1975.

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At the regular meeting of the Historical Society in September, Mr. and Mrs. Leland Morris presented the program with colored slides and comments of a trip they took to the Central American Country of Quatamala. It was an interesting program.

\* \* \* \* \*

In Memoriam

Walter A. Bowers

74

November 9, 1973

Mr. Bowers was one of the organizers and Charter members of the Woodson County Historical Society. He also held a Life Membership in the Society.

\* \* \* \* \*

In the past we have mentioned names and told a little about each deceased member of the Historical Society, but in the case of Walter A. Bowers, we feel that he deserved more than just a few words. For we feel that through his untiring efforts this historical quarterly was greatly helped to be successful. Walter has spent considerable time and money in the promotion of "In The Beginning." No one knows this as well as the editor.

Many articles he would not have written it as we did, for his capability of writing or expressing himself were far above this writers ability, but his praise and comments were always a boost to the writer.

\* \* \* \* \*

Pearl C. Laidlaw

79

November 15, 1973

Mrs. Laidlaw was a native Woodson Countian, and had spent the majority of her life in and around Yates Center. She was a Charter Member of the Woodson County Historical Society.

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Perhaps this would be a good time to remind those who pay their membership by the year that those dues are come due the first of each year.

There were 134 regular paid up members and 96 Life Members for 1973, making a total of 230 members of the Woodson County Historical Society.

\* \* \* \* \*

Join and Support

Woodson County Historical Society

Life Membership \$25.00

Regular membership \$2.00 a year

## THE TRUEBLOOD FAMILY —

The trees along Duck and Turkey Creeks were changing to their autumn colors as on October 18, 1871, a caravan of seven prairie schooners was wending its way along the wagon trail from LeRoy. It came across the Crandall and Baldwin ranches, and fording Turkey Creek the wagon train came to a stop at the farmstead of Nathaniel Chambers. (To locate this today one would go 9 1/4 miles north and a mile and a half west of Yates Center.)

The people in these wagons all came from the same locality in Davies County, Indiana, and were mostly related to the Trueblood family. We believe that Henry Trueblood was the leader of this group. They had come to the home of Henry Trueblood's sister, Mrs. Chambers.

Woodson County evidently did not appeal to some of the travelers or else the several weeks journey had made them homesick for the next morning two of the wagons were turned around and headed for Indiana. John E. Hayes and his wife Almira, who was a sister of Henry, stayed a year and went back to Indiana.

In the Henry Trueblood schooner was his wife Julia and three small sons, Richard, Will and Charley.

James Trueblood, an uncle of Henry, came with the wagon caravan. He first settled along the north side of Duck Creek, a couple miles up the creek. Later with his family moved to the prairie to the south of Keck.

\* \* \* \* \*

Henry S. Trueblood was born December 9, 1838, in Greene County Indiana, but soon moved with his parents to Davies Co. His father Jesse Trueblood descended from the Quaker Whigs of North Carolina. Jesse Trueblood was married to Charlotte Scott. Their children were: Phebe, who married Nathaniel Chambers; Mark, Henry S., Martha (Ragle), Almira (Hayes), Jesse C. James, Alice (Stuckney); Elizabeth (Shafer), Sarah (Smiley).

In 1861, Henry Trueblood and Julia Gowen were married. They lived on a farm in Davies Co., Indiana, until January 1865, when he enlisted in Co. K., 143rd Indiana Infantry. He saw service in Tennessee. He was mustered out in October, 1865.

The children of Henry and Julia Trueblood were: Richard, William, Charley, Flora and Lillian. We will take up about each one of these later in this article.

\* \* \* \* \*

After arriving here late in the fall of 1871, the Henry Trueblood family moved into a small log cabin on the E.H. Rugh farm, along Duck Creek. Here they spent the winter of 1871-72. The two oldest boys, Richard and William, later better known as Dick and Bill, attended the Byron School Dist. No. 1, where they were taken each morning by the two Rugh sisters. One of these sisters was named Elizabeth, who later married Frank Guy.

The following fall of 1872, the Henry Trueblood family moved into the new cabin on their homestead. This 80 acres was the south half of the northeast quarter of section 34, Twp. 23, R. 15, in Liberty township. The road past the cabin is US 75.

About three years later Henry S. Trueblood was elected as Trustee of Liberty Township. By this time a new town was started about 8 1/2 miles to the south. In 1879, Trueblood ran for county clerk of Woodson County and was elected. Two years later he re-elected as county clerk. With his election to the county office the Truebloods moved into Yates Center.

About 1884, Henry Trueblood became associated with A.F. Palmer in the merchantile business. The Palmer-Trueblood General store was quite a thriving place of business for several years. It was later known as the Trueblood-Gualt store as Ernest Gualt went into partnership with his father-in-law.



The west side of the square in Yates Center in the early 1880's. The store in the center advertising Dry Goods and Groceries, was the Palmer-Trueblood general store. It was originally the J. W. Depew store, and is about where the Campbell furniture Store is now. In the lower right hand corner is the board fence that surrounded the court yard.

\* \* \* \* \*

Richard H., the oldest of the children of Henry and Julia Trueblood, was born in Indiana, January 15, 1863. He was 8 years old when the trip was made to Kansas by covered wagon.

In July, 1886, at the age of 23, Dick as he was more familiarly known bought the "Weekly News," the first newspaper published in Yates Center, in 1877. It was known as a Republican Newspaper, and Dick Trueblood continued this political affiliation, and built it up into one of the strongest and most influential weeklies in Kansas. The name was later changed to the Yates Center News.

Richard Trueblood was married to Jessie Hulse. They had two sons, Richard and Billie.

William, better known as Bill, was married to Effie Stout. Their children were Harry and Gladys. Harry was a member of Co. L, from Yates Center during World War I, and was a steady correspondent for the Yates Center News, while serving in France. Gladys was married to Varenhorst. William Trueblood served two terms as Register of Deeds of Woodson Co. Also a good many years working on the Yates Center News. It was here that he met his wife Effie. She had lived at Neosho Falls. Coming to Yates Center she worked on the Woodson Democrat, then for the News. They were married 57 years before her death.

Charles Trueblood was born near Ragsville, Davies County, Indiana, in 1868 and was just three years old when the trip was made to Kansas in the covered wagon. He was married to Sarah Elizabeth Rodgers. They were the parents of two daughters, Mae and Maude. Mae married Dan Taylor. They have an adopted daughter, Mary Alice. Maude married Frank Johnson. They have a son, Frank, Jr.

Charles and Sarah Trueblood started their married life on a farm along Turkey creek, in Liberty township. Later moving to Yates Center where he was assistant postmaster for several years under Wm. Hogueland.

Flora Trueblood was married to Ernest Gault and lived most of her life in Yates Center. They had one daughter, Lillian, who married Floyd Schaefer.

Lillian Trueblood never married.

At the time we take this to the publishers we were unable to get a picture of any of the Trueblood family. We will try and get one for another issue. This may seem rather odd as the Trueblood families were well known and took a great part in the life of Yates Center and the county.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **YATES CENTER NEWS, June 20, 1890 —**

Myra Post office—Mail delivered Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Arrives at 1:45 p.m., and leave 2:15 p.m. same day.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **HORSE RACING —**

Racing in a mile and half dash, "Boots," belonging to John Lester of Iola, won over Joe Carroll's horse Monitor. Ponies owned by Isaac Powell run against horse owned by one of the Ellis boys. Powell won 4th race.

A black horse owned by Chadwick of Coyville ran against horse owned by Kesner of Liberty township. Chadwick winning.

Some of the sports who attended the races Saturday must have found an original package somewhere. They got very noisy before night.



## THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH —

On August 1, 1882, fifteen charter members met in the Methodist Episcopal building and organized the First Baptist Church of Yates Center, Kansas. The fifteen were: William Wamsley, Anna Wamsley, Cable Wamsley, Asa Whitney, Lydia Whitney, Margaret Marion, Homer Lyman, Anna Lyman, M.C. Elliot, Harriett Elliot, Charles Winters, Clarissa Stephenson, Mary Lossing, Louise Lossing, and Ernest Lossing.

The Church was formerly recognized by the churches of Iola, Bethal and Turkey Creek on August 22. This church became a part of the Neosho Valley Association.

Asa Whitney and William Wamsley were chosen as the first deacons in the new church. The first pastor, Rev. G.W. Melton was called September 1, 1883, at half time for \$600 per year.

The church met in homes and for a while in the Christian Church. John and Midia Morris were the first additions moving their letter September 12, 1884.

Plans were made by the congregation for the building of a church on the corner of Butler and Green streets. The corner stone was being laid with "public services at 6 p.m., July 10, 1884". At the time it was built it was perhaps the largest church building at Yates Center. A large bell was placed in the belfry. (This bell was later given to the Woodson County Historical Society and was placed on a cement platform in the front of the museum.)

The church reported to the association in 1911, that they had "erected a seven room modern house" for a parsonage next to the church building. The church passed through the next years with ups and downs, struggling ever to maintain a pure testimony and to continue to have an open door for worship.

On May 14, 1914, a strong resolution was passed condemning card playing and dancing with the penalty of exclusion for the continued practice.

Early in 1924, the Klansmen were permitted to use the church for a lecture for which they were paid \$32.50, this being put in the fund for missions. But this did not ease the conscience of some, another resolution was passed to the effect tht the church building was to be used for the "church and its auxiliaries."

The church covenant was framed (still in the church) and a standard church manuel was purchased as a result of a motion of February 12, 1926. The church voted April 12, 1928 to call a council and have the ordination services for Rev. R. A. Johnson. After a delay the services were conducted June 5, 1928, with the State Executive Secretary participating.

In June, 1932, the church called Rev. R. L. Williams as pastor, Mr. Williams staying longer than only one other pastor before or since. Closing his work in June, 1943—11 years of service.

On August 7, 1940, a comprehensive plan was adapted involving the digging of a basement on the corner of the lot and moving the church over it. Much material and labor went into the project. A new cornerstone was hollowed out and papers put into it. On April 27, 1941, pastor R. L. Williams, led the people in dedication services of the basement. Dr. A. B. Martin, President of Ottawa University brought the morning message.

Following the adoption of a resolution by the deacons and trustees expressing concern over the failure of the National Convention to adopt a minimum confession of faith, and deploring the inclusive policy and the connection with the Federal Council of Churches, the church voted May 4, 1949 to seek recognition in a cooperating church of a Southern Baptist Association already organized in Kansas.

The First Baptist Church of Yates Center, became a part of the Southeast Kansas Association of Southern Baptist in Kansas at Erie Kansas, May 19, 1949.

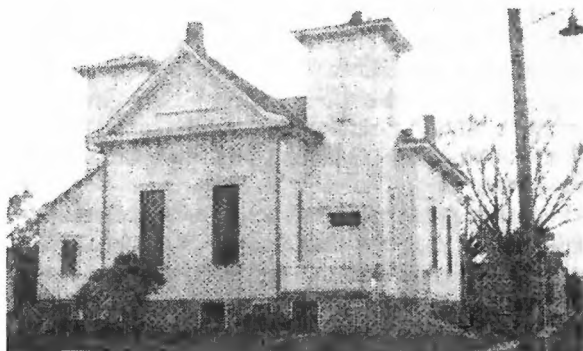
In 1957, this church celebrated its 75th anniversary with a special program commenerating this date. Rev. Tom Lawing was pastor at this time.

November 22, 1970, the members of the First Baptist church voted to buy the church building of the Yates Center First Methodist Church, as the group consolidated with the Zion Methodist, into the United Methodist Church. Soon after this the members of the First Baptist Church moved into their new quarters.

During the past few years several members of this church have entered the ministry—Elvin Blackmore, Charles Hines, John Reed, Jerry Vadnais, James Vadnais, Keith Morrow, Bill Kneisly.

Pastors who have served the First Baptist Church since its beginning are: M. C. Elliot, supplied ocassionally at the beginning; G. W. Melton, 9-1-1883 to 2-14-1886; T. C. Coffey to 11-5-87; D. C. Ellis to 3-2-89; V. W. Robinson, 7-7-89; A. H. Petty to 9-1-89; David King to 8-7-90; Z. T. Queen 6-22-92 to 8-16-93; E. H. Foster, to 9-1896; J. W. Megan, to 1-1-99; E. Jos. Stewart, to 9-1-1900; G.O. Vannery, 1901; J.M. White, 1902; Vannary, 1904; D. W. Phillips, 1905; C. J. Spiers, to 10-1-07; L. O. Hudson, to 4-1-09; S. S. Haygman, 1910 to 8-1912; W. A. Howes, 1913; F. E. Cary, 3-1914 to 4-1-1916; F. D. Cook, 1916; C. E. Riblet, 1917-18; Asa K. McGrew, 1918-19; C. L. Kingsbury, 4-8-1920 to Sept. 1922; R. S. Sargent, 1922-23; F. A. Funk, 1925-26; R. A. Johnson, 1927-29; W. O. Todd, 1929-31; R. L. Williams, 6-16-32 to 6-16-43; T.D. Hatch, 9-11-43 to 5-10-43; I. D. Alvord, 9-1-43 to 5-10-46; Earnest E. Smart, 6-46 to 3-30-48; Mervin Magill, 1948 to 2-1-51; Don Floyd, 1951; Victor Gibson, 9-5-51 to 6-20-54; Olen Mather, 1954 to 3-1-57; Tom Lawing, 1957 to 11-1958; Gerald Kelly, 2-1959 to 6-20-60; Joe Schultz, 1960 to 5-1-64; Walter Everhart, 1964-67; James Milstead, 11-1967 to 1-1-1970; Clarence Raines, 2-1-72 to 1973-James Maynardis is the present pastor.





The First Baptist Church as it looked at the time that its congregation left it to move into the First Methodist Church building. Members of the Church of God (Holiness) that went to the church building, seven miles north and a half west of Yates Center, moved to the building shown above in 1970.

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The list of Sunday School superintendents for the First Baptist church for the first few years of its existence were not to be found so we will start with 1913, the first record available. We will give them in the order that we have: Jesse Morris, Elmer Culver, Emma Reed, T. J. Morris, Mr. Longwill, Thomas Stiles, Lucy Ellis, A. H. Holcomb, Mr. Jansen, Mrs. Bertha Pickering, Mrs. Todd, Mrs. Kelle, Mrs. Sofia Tannahill, H. C. Knight, G. Knight, Earl Blevins, Bob Burris, Gene Beck, Glen Miller, Jerry Hope, Earl Vadnais, Mrs. Lee Staurt, Mrs. Myrtle Hatch, Russell Bishop, Bill Kester, Keith Morrow, Gerald Gilkison. The present superintendent is Bill Kester, who has served around 15 years in that capacity.

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#### WOODSON COUNTY POST-Neosho Falls, Kansas, July 12, 1876— COUNTY SEAT FIGHT —

Yates Center, located in center of Woodson County. Laid out last August and now has some 30 buildings. Three stores, livery stable, two hotels, one physician, blacksmith, wagon maker, and carpenter. Sunday School, Masonic Lodge.

County seat, received highest number of votes. Town lots will be given (for the present) to anyone who will erect buildings and paint them. For further particulars address, Abner Yates, Jacksonville, Illinois, or Hon. Frank Butler or James B. Fry, Esq., Yates Center, Kansas.

DEFIANCE—Is still the county seat and will be for sometime. Churches at Defiance are Congregational, Lutheran, German Methodist and Catholic. Only bridge across Owl Creek is at Defiance. Lots will be given. David Phillips.

## COL. W. L. PARSONS AND FAMILY —

A man who had quite a lot to do with the early life, business and civic affairs of Neosho Falls and Woodson County was William L. Parsons. He had a very eventful career. He was known mostly as Col. Parsons.

He was born at East Hampton, Long Island, New York, in April 1833. His father William Parsons, of East Hampton was a sea captain. As a young man he came west to Wisconsin and then on to Colorado, where he engaged in mining for a while.

Later he returned to Racine, Wisconsin.

In April of 1861, Wm. L. Parsons enlisted in the Union army and was commissioned as a second Lieutenant, Company F, Second Wisconsin Infantry. His regiment was a part of the Army of the Potomac and his first battle was the first battle of Bull Run. After this battle he was commissioned as First Lieutenant. In the fall of 1862, in the battle of South Mountain he was severely wounded. He was out of action for several months, in which time he was made a Captain.

During the battle of Gettysburg, in July, 1863, he received another wound. His outfit was with the Iron Brigade. After Gettysburg he was promoted to major and later to colonel, but he did not get to serve as colonel because his regiment had become so thinned out by battle and sickness it was not entitled to a full corps of officers. His command lost 27 per cent in this battle.

During the Battle of the Wilderness in 1864, Parsons was wounded in the hand but did not stop. Later as he turned his head to give an order he was shot in the side of the head breaking his skull. He was left on the battlefield as dead, but was later picked up by the enemy and sent to a Confederate hospital. Later Major Parsons was sent to a Confederate prison. After an imprisonment of about seven and a half months in three different prisons, he was paroled. He was sent to prisons at Macon, Georgia, Charleston and then to Columbia South Carolina.

In a letter written to his mother, after his first battle Mr. Parsons wrote: "I can stand almost anything but a ball from those rifled cannons, they were perfectly awful. To see men, horses, and wagons and cannons piled up all over the fields is a sickening sight. I was never so tired in my life. On our retreat we marched 35 miles after fighting all day."

In writing about life in a Confederate prison, Mr. Parsons wrote: Our rations consisted of coarse corn meal and sorghum molasses of the vilest kind. When I was paroled I was dirty and ragged and don't believe that Mother would have known me. You cannot imagine the joy when I again came in sight of the Stars and Stripes — "Old Glory."

After returning from the army, Col. Parsons conducted an elevator for a railway company at Savannah, Illinois. Going from there to Chicago, he was there when the great fire of 1871, burned out the small store he operated. Losing every thing he possessed in this fire he

decided to try his fortune farther west, so in December of that year he came to Woodson County. The following year, 1872 Parsons purchased an interest in a flour mill at Neosho Falls, the firm being known as, Covert, Parsons and Cozine.

In the following year, 1873, the name of Covert was dropped from the firm. The following advertisement appeared in the Woodson County Advocate then being published at Kalida.

"Neosho Falls water mill - running day and night. Native lumber, flour, feed, etc. Cash paid for wheat. Custom work promptly attended to. Toll for grinding one-eight. — Parsons and Cozine, proprietors."

In January, 1877, Wm. L. Parsons was wed to Miss Jennie Holloway. They were the parents of two children, Anna E. and William Sherrill.

It was in the fall of 1877, that Col. Parsons acquired the interest of his partner and became the sole proprietor. He remodeled the mill and ran four sets of burrs and was known as the Neosho Falls Flouring and Saw Mills.

Col. Parsons was elected as Probate Judge of Woodson County in 1898. About the same year the Parsons family moved to Yates Center. Parsons was re-elected in 1900 as Probate Judge. The Parsons Mill at Neosho Falls was sold.

In the year 1900 was also the passing of Sherrill Parsons the only son of Col. and Mrs. Parsons.

On October 17, 1899, Anna Parsons was married to Dr. O. B. Trusler, a young dentist in Yates Center. They were the parents of two children; Harold P. who married Irene Morris, and Jeanette who married Walter Beine.



**Col. Wm. Parsons and granddaughter Jeanette Trusler.**

## MT. PLEASANT SCHOOL NO. 31 —

The first pupils of District No. 31, and their parents lived in log cabins, nestled along the different branches of the Sandy Creeks and on the hillsides where springs of pure, clear water bubbled out, for water was their ever problem along with fuel from the trees along the streams.

Along the south slope of a hillside in the northeast corner of section 7-Twp. 26 R. 15, a spring of cold water bubbled out of the rocks. Near this spring in the year of 1858, the covered wagon of David and Sarah Fleming came to a stop. Here on the hillside a log cabin was hewn from the nearby trees. With David and Sarah Fleming were their three children, Delia, Alvin, and Ruan. David Fleming did not live long in this new frontier, passing away in 1860, and was buried in the Belmont cemetery.

Sarah Fleming, who was a native of South Carolina, soon proved herself to be a typical pioneer mother. The first school in that vicinity was held in a log shed by the Fleming home. The shed had no floor and no desks. The first teacher was Delia Fleming. There was no organized district for several years. As the land became more settled and children grew to school age these pioneers saw the need of education, a log cabin school was built just to the south of the Fleming home. (Where the Bresner house stands). In time Dist. No. 31 was founded. It was a large sized district at the time.

In the year of 1871, this district was divided. The south part was still Dist. No. 31, and called Mt. Pleasant. While the north part was Dist. No. 58, and called Belmont.

Some of the first teachers that taught in the small log school at Mt. Pleasant were: Miss Lizzie Stephenson, who taught in the spring of 1872; Delia Fleming again in 1873 and '74. A. F. Palmer taught there in 1857, who not only taught the regular pupils, but also a class of older students namely — Frank Henly, Cort Gregory, H. A. Nichols, Milt Jewitt and E. H. Post.

One young man by the name of Phillips, teaching in the log school house became ill and died, and having no relatives was buried in the Fleming lot in the Belmont Cemetery.

In 1877 a small frame school house was built on land given by M.V.B. Pearsoll, less than two miles south of the site of the log school. Mr. Pearsoll helped haul the lumber from Burlington. For a while it was known as the Pearsoll School, and was later christened as the Mt. Pleasant School. (Just 91 years later this school house was sold at auction for \$51.) The first teacher in the new frame building was Miss Lizzie Smith. A. T. Ibbetson was another.

Starting in 1881 the following teachers taught at the Mt. Pleasant school; F. J. DeWitt, Clummie, C. C. Clevenger, Lois Johnson, Delia Fleming, John Withers, J. D. Moffet, Maggie Ward, Ella Medearis, E. J. Demond, Lemon Cole, Alta Jewett, Bradley Grove, Clara Trembley, Wm. Grover, Rose M. Wix, Lillie Fuhlage.

Alta Jewitt, Golda Hewn, Margie Allen, Florence Heistand, Avis Eagle, Dessie Gillespie, Lizzie McDaniel, Mattie Augustine, Ethel Gunnells, Pearl Jewitt, Edna Winkleman, Clyta E. Mark, Margie Englebrecht, Irene Adamson, Edith Fuhlage, Mary Sutherman, Boyd Weide, Florence Fuhlage, Marie Woodruff, Clyde Hill, Wilma Roberts, Deane Campbell, Pansy Chandler, Doris McVey Stock, Wilma Mabie, Mrs. Jean Ward, Naomi Orbin, Richard Robson, Jo Newman, Rosa Goodrick. Last term of school was 1955-56.



Mt. Pleasant School, pupils and teacher term of 1915-16. — Beginning with boy with black cap on left, Curtis Williams, Bill Bresner, Earl Mark, Tom Salem, Hazel Medearis, Ella Ogden, Avis Eagle (Ireland), teacher, Oliver Pendlay, Charley Englebrecht. Middle row left-May Pendlay, Myrtle Lauber, Rosa Pendlay, Iva Medearis, Grace Englebrecht, Joe Bresner, Glenn Lauber, Leo Medearis. Front row, Ellen Pendlay, Marie Medearis, Florence Williamson, Alice Englebrecht, Elsie Clugston, Elsie Williamson.



Same school — 1926-27—Girl in doorway, Wilma Lauber, Marie Clugston, Genivere McQuiston, Walter Englebrecht, Bryon McQuiston, Boyd Weide, teacher. Next row: Velma Clugston, Nina Mae Hampton, Marie Steinforth, Rith Fennessee, Alice Rogers, Eugene Hampton, Ernest Steinforth, Carl McQuiston, Martin Clugston with just his head showing, Dale Gillespie, Louis Pendlay.

## THE LEWIS KLINK FAMILY —

Lewis Klick was born in Stark County, Ohio, January 3, 1842, of German parentage. His parents, Nicholas and Mary B. (Huber) Klick were both born in Germany, but were not married until they met in America.

Nicholas Klick was a farmer and also a shoemaker while living in Stark County Ohio, and later moving to Noble County, Indiana. They were the parents of thirteen children, Lewis being the fourth born child.

After getting a common school education, Lewis Klick attended one year at the Frederickville Seminary and then became a student at the Greensburg Seminary in Ohio. Moving to Noble County, Indiana, in 1862, Lewis Klick taught school for a while.

In 1865, he started for California by way of the Isthmus of Panama. He worked on a farm there for five years and returned to Indiana in 1870. In April, 1872, Lewis Klick was married to Miss Elizabeth C. Moore, who was also a native of Ohio.

In May, 1872, the newly weds started for Kansas. they came to the southeast part of Woodson County. They may have lived for a short time in Allen County before taking a homestead of 80 acres, in the west half of the southwest quarter of Se. 10, 25-17. After five years he received the patent for the 80 acres on April 15, 1882. He had to go to the Land Office at Independence, Kansas for this transaction.

In 1881, Elizabeth C. Klick died, leaving three small children; Jennie M., Laura A., and Harvey L. She was buried in what is known as the Ellison Cemetery, on the Allen County side of the Allen-Woodson County line.

In 1185, Lewis Klick sold his homestead and with his children moved to Toronto township where he purchased 400 acres along Cedar Creek. In 1892, Lewis Klick was married to Mrs. Mary C. Palmer, who had one son John Palmer. They had one daughter, Lizzie B.

\* \* \* \* \*

Lewis Klick was one of the organizers and was instrumental in the building of the Batesville U. B. Church. The story of this church appeared in the October, 1973 issue of this quarterly. He spent most of the later part of his life in Toronto township as a farmer and stock-raiser.

The children of Lewis Klick and their families were:

Jennie M., who married Ed Pearsoll. Their children were, Loleta who married Pete Weibe.

Maybelle who married Sam Weibe. These two marrying brothers. Haskell, Chester, and Verne.

Laura married Clark Singleton. Their children were: Hazel who died as an infant; Vera was married to Carl Gardiner.

Lizzie B., youngest daughter of Lewis Klick, was married to Jasper Redfern. Their children were Luella, who married Loyd Weide, Dorothy Redfern Chant; LaVelle who married and Frankie





**Lewis Klick and wife Mary**

\* \* \* \* \*

Merle Singleton, Mildred who married Edwin Sykes; Dolph, who married O'Dee Howard. Lewis Singleton married Dorothy Bleakley.

Harvey L. Klick, married Alice C. Winter. They spent the last years of their life on the old Klick farm along Cedar Creek, where a good-sized oil field was developed. Their children were; Frances, who never married, but was a successful teacher in Woodson County schools and in Wichita.

Robert Klick, who retired after 44 years service in the Yates Center postoffice. Thirty-three months of this time was served in the Armed Forces during World War II. He was assistant postoffice for over 16 years. He married Opal Willoughby.

Henry Klick was married to Helen Otto. They had two children, Dennis and Linda Klick Edwards. Henry was accidentally killed when a tractor overturned on him.

Anna Laura Klick married Cornelious McNitt. Their children were, Marilyn (Weide), Gary, Sharon and Gordon.

Harvey W. Klick married Edwin Bomhoff. Their children are, Gail Ann Lind, Barbara Joan Roder, Joyce Elaine Swenson, Bonnie Beth Hamman, and H. Wayne Klick.

## VIGILANCE COMMITTEE'S DOING'S OWL CREEK, JUNE 14, 1876.

In the Vol. 5, 18-April 1972 issue of "In The Beginning," we told the story of the Hiram Cook family of North Owl Creek. We told of the graves of his wife Jane and his oldest son Henry, who are buried in the little cemetery at the foot of the hill on the east side of the US 75 as one goes down the hill four miles north of Yates Center. While some of the Cook's lived for years in that vicinity we found no more of Hiram Cook and his family.

An article appeared in the Woodson County Post, published at Neosho Falls, under the heading at the top of this page sheds some light about Hiram Cook.

"Editor of the Post: A case of intimidation happened in Woodson County which I think the people of the county ought to made aware of Mr. H. Cook, father of Tom Cook, who was tried for horse stealing and found not guilty came back to Woodson County to see his children and friends before he settled for good on his new farm in Missouri. He is a good man that is well liked by his neighbors, and I do not think any one can bring up anything against him. He had only been here a day or two when he received a letter purposing to come from the Vigilance Committee, ordering him to leave the county, but should not that the Vigilance Committee as a body, would write such a letter but one of the members may have done so. Now I think this is too much of a good thing and if the Vigilance Committee of Woodson County are to take it on themselves the power of ordering honest men out of the county the sooner the honest men form themselves into a body to watch the Vigilance Committee the better. It is hoped that the Vigilance Committee as a body know nothing of the letter and will punish the individual who wrote such a letter in their name. It is the general opinion that the writer of this intimidation is the same who has been writing libelous reports to Cowley County about Mr. Cook."

Respectfully

Justice

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Woodson County Post — June 21, 1876 —

We publish in this issue a commentary in regard to the warning out of the county of Mr. Hiram Cook, one of the old citizens of this county, by the Vigilance Committee or rather by some individual member of it or by some one who had an individual spite against Mr. Cook. We do not think Mr. Cook should be responsible for his sons acts, no matter what they may be. During our acquaintance with Mr. Cook we have never heard any complaints about him but have always heard him spoken of as a good man neighbor. (The editor who wrote this comment was W. W. Sain.)

The Vigilance Committee mentioned was evidently the one along Owl Creek that were also known as the Regulators.

## THE PUSEY GRAVES FAMILY —

One of the first pioneer families to settle along the upper part of Turkey Creek was this Graves family. Their homestead was the farm that has been known for the past 90 years as the Geo. W. Williams farm, the South 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of section 7, 24-15, and the North 1/2 of Northeast 1/4 of section 18-24-15.

Pusey Graves was born near Wilmington, Delaware in 1813. At the age of 3 years, he came with his parents to Wayne Co. Indiana. The father, Nathan Graves was a birthright Quaker, a founder of the Quaker Colony in Wayne County. Pusey was reared on a farm but learned the trades of plastering and copper, but followed the trade of the former for eleven years in Indiana.

Pusey Graves was married to Jane W. Mitchell in July, 1837, at Richmond, Indiana. They were the parents of seven children, Charles B., Mary Ann, George T. Irene, Edward C., John W., Albert.

In 1850, Graves left his wife and four small children and headed west for the gold fields of California. After working the mines for three years, he returned coming back by the way of New Orleans, and up the Mississippi River to meet his family in Illinois. They settled at Vermont, Fulton County, Illinois. They remained here for about six years and again headed west.

Mr. and Mrs. Graves and six children, Charles 18, Mary Ann 16, Albert 12, Irene 10, George 6, Clayton 3, came to Kansas via covered wagon and arrived in Woodson County in 1859, with the first of the pioneers that stayed.

A log cabin along the North side of Turkey Creek was the home of the Graves family. Here John Graves the youngest of the family was born.

About six years later the log school house of Liberty district No. 2 was erected about a mile and quarter due west of the Graves farmstead. When this school was organized in 1865, Jane Graves was one of the three women on the first school board of Dist. No. 2. We have no record of how many of the Graves children attended this first school. It is interesting to note that the first teacher of this log school, (Askren) was a Miss Sarah Hawkins. A few years later Sarah Hawkins was married to Charles Graves.

Within a year after arriving here, Pusey Graves had entered the political field of Woodson County. In 1860, he was elected Justice of the Peace, evidently for Liberty township. He held this for four years. He served one term as Representative in the State legislature. Then in 1862, Graves was elected as Probate Judge of Woodson County. He served eleven years in that capacity, and one term as Clerk of Court. He moved to the county seat at Neosho Falls in 1870. Here the Graves family entered into the political and civic affairs of the town and county. The name of "Judge" was attached to the name of Pusey Graves for many years. Besides being Probate Judge for many years, he also served as a member of the last Territorial legislature.

Mary Ann Graves was married to Omar Whitney. They had a son, Eugene Pusey Whitney.

Charles B. Graves was 18 years old when coming to Woodson County. About 2 1/2 years later Charles B. was among the group that enlisted in Company F., Ninth Reg. Kansas Volunteer Cavalry, on Nov. 20, 1861, at Neosho Falls. His address was given as Turkey Creek, Woodson. He was promoted as sergeant. He took part in battles at Prairie Grove, Ark., and Newtonia, Mo. Just before President A. Lincoln's Emancipation proclamation freeing the slaves, Sgt. Graves was sent with an expedition into Missouri and liberated 125 slaves, who were brought to Kansas, and a number of them enlisted in the First Kansas Colored Troops.

After the Civil War, Charles Graves returned to Woodson Co., where he studied law. He was admitted to practice law at Burlington. He engaged in law at Neosho Falls and again returned to Burlington. In 1880 Graves was elected to Judge of District Court. This district was composed of counties of Osage, Coffey, Lyons and Woodson. After serving 12 years as judge he was appointed as Justice of the Supreme Court of Kansas, from 1905 till 1910.

Like so many other pioneer families, there are no relatives of this family left in the county.

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#### SOME OF THE FIRST "RESIDENTS" OF WOODSON COUNTY —

Near a semi-sharp bend in the Verdigris River, just to the east where a stream known locally as Finger Creek enters the river was the site of quite a village. Just when these people came here, how long they stayed or how many made up the village will never be known as they were a pre-historic tribe of American Indians of the Kansas City Hopewell Culture. "Kansas City" name comes from the resemblance of the artifacts found here with a camp of the Hopewellian Culture found along the Missouri River north of Kansas City. The name Hopewell comes from a group of Mound Builders in Ohio.

The Village along the Verdigris River was the farthest south of any of this culture found. This camp was bounded on southeast by the Verdigris, just before it makes a bend back to the south towards where the Toronto Dam is now located. It was bounded on the southwest and northwest by an ox-bow lake, evidently an old river bed. Across the river to the south from the village was a high bluff that ran for possibly a quarter mile to the west. This high bluff is now known as Duck Island in the Toronto Reservoir.

Archeologist working out of the Lincoln, Nebraska office of the River Basin surveys, Smithsonian Institution, inspected and digging some test pits identified this site as a village of the Hopewell tribe. The decorations or markings on the various pieces of sherd or pottery was the main identifying factor at this campsite. Most of the projectile points, blades, scrapers and drills were made from gray Flint Hills chert (flint). This chert or flint came mostly from Chase and Morris counties. This village or camp-site had been farmed over for perhaps a hundred years before the time that these archeological tests were made, but the village was believed to be about 900 feet long, with the heaviest concentration about the center of the length. It was about 140 feet wide. The date for this village is given from 200 B.C. to A.D. 500. This gives a range of 700 years, but still several generations before the time of the white man.

As these surveys were made just prior to the filling of the Toronto Reservoir, one of the main interests were to find out the culture of these Indians, what they did, how they lived and what they ate. It was conducted by the Bureau of American Ethnology.

The last group to work this area was led by Dr. James H. Howard, with four assistances from May 15 to June 30, 1957. The editor of this quarterly met and visited with these men as they worked in their digging and inspecting. The articles that they would find during the day were all cataloged and placed in sacks each night and sent to headquarters at Lincoln, Nebraska, the next day. Wet rainy weather kept them from doing the salvage work in the time allotted for them. We made several trips back to some of these camp sites after this group from the Smithsonian Institution left. I found one artifact that they did not. That was what was known as a Harhey knife. It is a lozene or diamond shaped flint knife and worked or bevelled on four sides and is also called a four bladed knife. Quite a few artifacts were turned up when a bull dozen was pushing the north bank of the river into the rive bed where this camp was.

There were over 50 different Indian Camps and villages in the area covered by the Toronto Reservoir.

There were two more of these Hopewell Camp sites. One is not far from the Verdigris River in Greenwood County, a mile and half north and about a mile west from Toronto. The other one is one what is now the Parallel Line between the Woodson County Line and the Verdigris River, on what was known as the Webb farm.

All of the vital information given here was taken from the book, "Archeological Investigations in the Toronto Reservoir Area, Kansas. By James H. Howard. Also listed in the book were area people who assisted these men from Toronto were: Mark Sample, George Fritz, George Phillips, Albert Webb, J. E. Sower, H. W. Paske, Fred Jamison. From Yates Center, Richard Phillips and Lester Harding.

## THE SANTA FE RAILROAD —

In 1887, the Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway constructed a feeder from its line through Colony. Going southwest through Neosho Falls and terminating at Yates Center, a distance of 26 miles.

Locally known as "Jerky," twice daily an engine and combination coach and baggage car left Colony and dashed across the prairie at the amazing speed of 25 miles per hour. Scheduled stops along the way after leaving Colony were Geneva, Neosho Falls and Lomando. At various points along the way it picked up cream cans, stock, various kinds of freight and people.

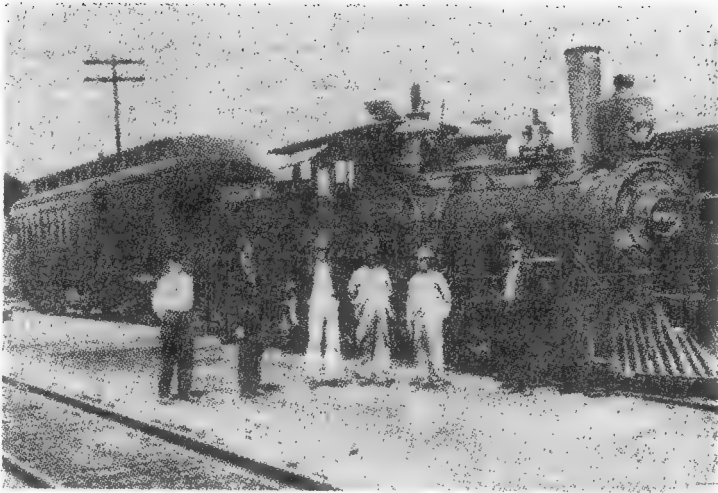
The Captain of the crew was Buck Meyers and his first mate Pete Holtzapfel. The Engineer and brakeman would change, but there was always Buck and Pete. In an article written for the special of the Yates Center News for the diamond jubilee - 1950 it was stated—For those that rode that train the genial conductor who took your ticket and often would sit down and visit with you and keep an eye on the big round heating stove that kept the car warm in winter but had to have lots of attention. Pete was the mailman, baggage man, brakeman and porter. Plenty of time was allowed for the 25 mile run and sometimes hunting was good along the way. The train could easily stop and allow its occupants to take a shot at ducks on a nearby pond or a prairie chicken on a hay stack.

A clipping from the Kansas City Star, recently was given to this editor, and was written by Paul Holzapfel, of Kansas City. — "My father P. C. Holzapfel, was brakeman and expressman for 37 years on "Jerky," the Santa Fe train on the branch from Colony to Yates Center, 25 miles west. "Jerky" made two trips a day, six days a week. My friend Dale Varner and I used to fish on Indian Creek two miles west of Colony, right off the railroad bridge. After a day's fishing, we would get up on the railroad track when it was about time for "Jerky" to come by in early evening. The train would stop for us with our long cane poles and strings of fish and we would ride into Colony."

Coming from the northeast, the Santa Fe track crossed the Missouri Pacific Railway track just to the east side of Yates Center, and going on southwest to the depot that was built to the east side of Main Street, with the tracks going on to the southwest nearly to where US 75 is now. The turn table where the engines were turned around was to the north side of the tracks while the stock yards was to the south side of the tracks. This would be about five blocks due south of the present football field. The depot was over a quarter mile east and north.

J. T. King was the first agent and operator at this depot.





**Old Jerky, standing on the tracks at the depot at Colony. The man to extreme right is Pete Holzapel. Man second from left is Buck Meyers.**

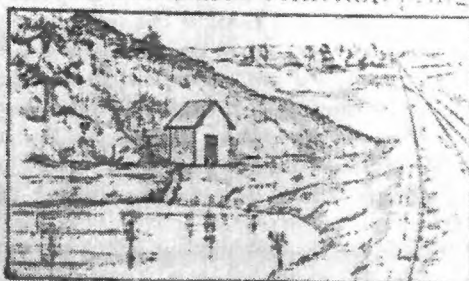
In 1901 Ben Brady came up from the Indian Territory and became agent and sole boss of the depot. He also became a familiar figure as he rode through town on his little white pony "Doc." Experiences at the little red depot were many as Brady recalled down over the years. There was the time when one of the Johnson girls took her first trip. She laid her money on the counter and said, "Please give me a ticket to Grandma's." Ben knew Grandma lived at Humboldt so she got her ticket.

Then there was the lady who asked for a ticket and when Ben asked, "Where?" she became very angry and said "It's none of your business."

One night in the late fall when it was almost dark and a stranger came along the south side of the depot. There had been a large shipment of freight and several hundred dollars lay in the money sack. As the stranger edged along stealthily to the waiting room, Brady grabbed the money, ran out the north door, slide down the hill and jumped on the faithful old Doc's back and got to town. He always felt that in a short time he would have been held up and the day's receipts stolen. In the early years a big black hound dog, Rastus, kept watch over both Brady and old Doc.

Around 1913 when this editor was a small boy, we went with our mother, Mrs. George Harding, to Kansas City via the Santa Fe. Getting on the "Jerky" at Yates Center, we remember stopping at Neosho Falls and then at Colony, where we had to lay over quite a while to catch the train for Kansas City.

## The Kansas Clarus Mineral Spring.



The water from this spring has been analyzed by W. D. Church, chemist of the Rock Island and Santa Fe railroads, and Prof. J. T. Lovewell, chemist of Washburn College, and has been pronounced by them to be remarkably pure, and closely resembles in mineral ingredients the celebrated Silurian and Arcadian springs of Waukesha, Wis. Silurian, total solids, 18.6861 grams per U. S. gallon; Kansas Clarus, 20.837; Arcadian, 30.5114.

The following is the analysis of the Kansas Clarus Mineral Spring.

Organic matter	.....	slight traces
Silica	.....	.071
Alumina and Iron Biscarbonate	.....	.495
Aluminum and Iron Biscarbonate	.....	11.665
Bicarbonate of Magnesium	.....	2.004
Bicarbonate of Sodium	.....	5.270
Sulphate of Sodium	.....	.005
Chloride of Sodium	.....	.005
Total Solids	.....	20.837
Chlorine combined	.....	.005
Carbonic Acid Gas	.....	indistinct

Waters of this kind are so well known that it is not necessary to publish certificates. On draft at

SWIFT & HOLLIDAY'S, TOPEKA, KANSAS.

There are perhaps a very few of our readers ever heard of the Kansas Clarus Mineral Spring. And the sketch shown from an advertisement would not help any in trying to identify the place. On the other side of the advertising card we find this about the spring and the water.

"Is located at Batesville, Woodson Co., Kans., on the line of the Fort Scott & Wichita railroad, about midway between the two cities. The water gushes forth from a crevice in a hard limestone rock ninety-six feet thick, at a distance of one-fourth miles from the nearest dwelling. The impervious stratum from which the water issues precludes all possibility of surface contamination and the water is collected in its native purity. It has a clear, soft, appetizing taste, and has been found after careful analysis by able chemist to be pure, wholesome, and free from all organic impurity, and the mineral ingredients found in the water closely resemble those of the celebrated Silurian and Arcadian Springs of Waukesha, Wisconsin. Such waters have been found invaluable in dyspepsia, kidney, bladder and urinary troubles. Fever of all kinds, and in the preparation of foods for the sick. Prof. Blake, the great weather calculator, says it is

cheaper to purchase the water for drinking purposes than to pay doctor's bill and funeral expenses. It is an established fact that impure water in case of sickness of a zymotic character generally. Wanted, one agent in every town and one to three in every city in the county, to sell the water, especially in the alkaline districts of Western Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas and elsewhere. Address the Kansas Clarus Mineral Spring Co., 120 West Sixth Ave., Topeka, Kansas, or J. W. Tipton, Toronto, Kansas.

Water by the barrel of forty gallons and parafined, \$6; twenty-five gallons, \$5.00."

This spring was located on land belonging to J. W. Tipton, and was about a half mile to the northwest of Batesville.

## **PATRONS OF THE WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

John V. Glades Agency  
Woodson Co. Co-op  
State Exchange Bank  
Street Abstract Co. Inc.  
Schornick Oil Co.  
Self Service Grocery  
Krueger's Variety  
Walter A. Bowers  
Hi-Way Food Basket  
Farmer's Co-op Piqua  
Gualding Oil Co.  
Morton Equipment Co.  
Swope & Son Impl. Co.  
Campbell Plumbing & Electric  
Clyde Hill  
Cantrell Buick-Pontiac  
Paul C. Laidlaw  
Roger's Brothers Garage  
Charles H. Carpenter  
Newtex Manufacturing Co.  
J. C. Schnell  
Smith Furniture & Funeral Home  
Superior Building Supply, Inc.  
Marie Beine  
Pringle Ranch — J. W. & J. Richard  
W. K. Stockebrand  
Security Oil Co.  
Woody's Cafe  
Kimbell Ranch — Ed Kimbell

Al's Jewelry  
First National Bank - Toronto  
Blackjack Cattle Co.  
Yates Center Elevator Co.  
Jasper's Shopping Spot  
Bill Taylor - Gen. Agent  
Woodson Co. Farm Bureau  
Atkin Clinic  
Daly Western Supply  
Pyeatte-Jaynes Ins. Agency  
Dyer Chevrolet  
Linde Barber Shop  
House of Fabrics  
Brown's Western Auto  
Donald E. Ward  
Wilma Mark  
Milton Wrampe  
Gamble's Friendly Store  
E. E. Light  
Yates Center News  
Everybody's Grocery  
Baker Rexall Drug Store  
Yates Center Skelgas Service  
Campbell Furniture & Undertaking  
Mr. and Mrs. Glen Baker  
Piqua State Bank  
Don & Neva's Tastee-Freez  
McGinty-Coffman Dept. Store

